DECLASSIFIED XR PET 14 LIBYA
XR PET 6 LIBYA

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

XR AID(LIBYA) ARAB

343

CONFIDENTIAL 743

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84
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 NSC-10 SS-20
RSC-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-08 NSAE-00 P-03
PRS-01 E-15 OER-01 INT-06 AID-28 NEA-13 RSR-01 /131 W

042180

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY EJ DATE 8/18/
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH REASON (S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

O P 042112Z SEP 70
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 577

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 555

SUBJ: QADHAFI ANNOUNCES OCCIDENTAL AGREEMENT ON POSTED PRICE RAISE OF 30 CENTS

FROM: MACK, ACTING

1. JUST AS PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FAILED FOR YET ANOTHER TIME AT CHAOTIC PUBLIC RALLY IN BENGHAZI THIS EVENING (SEPTEMBER 4), COLONEL QADHAFI ANNOUNCED THAT OCCIDENTAL HAD AGREED TO RAISE POSTED PRICE BY 30 CENTS WITH SOME RETROACTIVITY TO 1965. OTHER DETAILS WERE SCARCELY AUDIBLE EVEN TO THOSE OF US WHO WERE SEATED ADJACENT TO SPEAKERS' PLATFORM. IMPACT OF DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS LOST ON CROWD CHANTING IRRELEVANT SLOGANS AND SURGING FORWARD FOR CLOSER LOOK AT QADHAFI AND SEVEN OTHER RCC MEMBERS. IF RADIO TRANSMISSION WAS SIMILARLY INTERRUPTED, I ASSUME THAT MORNING PAPERS WILL CARRY TEXT OF QADHAFI'S STATEMENT.

2. QADHAFI TRIED BUT FAILED TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE FOR "OPEN DISCUSSION" OF REVOLUTION'S ACHIEVEMENTS. FOLLOWING TWO HOUR WAIT FOR ARRIVAL OF QADHAFI AND HIS COLLEAGUES, CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND QUICKLY THINNED TO HARD CORE OF HALF THAT NUMBER AFTER IT BECAME APPARENT THAT MICROPHONES WERE NOT OPERATING WELL AND THAT QADHAFI WAS SET TO READ PAGES OF STATISTICS ON REVOLUTION'S DOMESTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS. REMAINING STALWARTS WERE COMPOSED LARGELY OF YOUNG MEN OUT FOR AN EVENING AMBUSHING AND SHOUTING TOGETHER WITH PETITIONERS.

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WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO GET ANSWERS TO INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS REGARDING GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

3. QADHAFI'S REMARKS CENTERED AROUND BUDGET AND INCLUDED LISTING OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. IN BRIEF EXCURSIONS INTO OTHER SUBJECTS HE REITERATED LIBYAN REJECTION OF FOREIGN (NON-ARAB) MILITARY ADVISORS, ANNOUNCED THAT "THOUSANDS" OF LIBYAN TROOPS WERE BEING TRAINED IN UAR, AND WARNED THAT LARG UNWILLING TO GIVE FINANCIAL AID TO PURCHASE BULLETS WHICH ARE FIRED IN STREETS OF AMMAN AND BEIRUT INSTEAD OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

4. OTHERS ON HAND FROM RCC WERE JAILED. YUNIS, KHARUBI, NAJM, HAMZA, MAQARYIF AND MUHAYSHI. THEY LET QADHAFI DO THE TALKING BUT SEVERAL SHOWED CONSIDERABLE IMPATIENCE WITH ROWDIER ELEMENTS OF CROWD.

5. IT WAS ONE OF QADHAFI'S POORER PERFORMANCES. HE FAILED TO GAIN CONTROL OR EVEN ATTENTION OF CROWD AND HIS RECITAL OF STATISTICS SEEMED ILL SUITED TO PUBLIC RALLY IN SPORTS CITY. ANNOUNCEMENT ON POSTED PRICES ENDED UP SOUNDING LIKE YET ANOTHER SET OF FIGURES WHICH WOULD HAVE MEANT LITTLE TO HIS LISTENERS, EVEN IF THEY HAD HEARD IT.
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